

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 06262 01 OF 02 070941Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----035376 071032Z /11

R 070919Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7416

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06262

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY READ FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF DOD POLITICAL-
MILITARY POSITIONS

REF: STATE 85898

1. HAVING READ SECRETARY BROWN'S LETTER OF MARCH 27 TO SECRETARY VANCE, I AM MORE THAN EVER CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS FOR EMBASSY MANAGEMENT AND OUR RELATIONS WITH THE FRG ON POLITICAL-MILITARY ISSUES OF THE PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT OF A DOD OFFICER TO BONN. I MUST STATE FIRMLY THAT I AM UNAWARE OF ANY NEED FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN OFFICER "OF STATURE" WHO COULD INTERACT EFFECTIVELY WITH SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE FMOD AND WITH POLITICAL FIGURES INTERESTED IN DEFENSE ISSUES.

2. POLITICAL-MILITARY ISSUES HERE ARE HANDLED EFFECTIVELY NOT ONLY BY THE OFFICERS OF THE POLITICAL SECTION ASSIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO SUCH DUTIES, BUT BY MYSELF, THE DCM AND THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR. I DEVOTE
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A CONSIDERABLE PERSONAL EFFORT TO POLITICAL-MILITARY MATTERS, INCLUDING CONTACT WITH LEADING OFFICIALS IN THE FMOD AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE. THE SAME IS TRUE OF THE DCM AND THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR. ALL OF US HAVE WELL ESTABLISHED CONTACTS AT RELEVANT LEVELS OF BOTH MINISTRIES WHICH HAVE PROVED CONSTRUCTIVE AND FRUITFUL. I AM BY NO MEANS CONVINCED THAT THE PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT

OF A DOD OFFICER WOULD CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO OUR ALREADY INTENSIVE EFFORTS IN THE POLITICAL-MILITARY FIELD. INDEED, THE RESULT MIGHT BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE IN A NATIONAL INTEREST SENSE SINCE IT COULD EASILY PRODUCE MIXED SIGNALS TO OUR GERMAN COLLEAGUES. MOREOVER, A NUMBER OF SENIOR GERMAN OFFICIALS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN DEFENSE MATTERS, INCLUDING SOME AT THE DEFENSE MINISTRY ITSELF, CLEARLY PREFER TO DEAL WITH US DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS RATHER THAN DEFENSE OFFICIALS BECAUSE THEY REGARD DEFENSE ISSUES AS HIGHLY POLITICAL IN CONTENT.

3. THERE IS A CONTRADICTION IN POSITIONS TAKEN BY SECDEF IN HIS MARCH 27 LETTER. ON THE ONE HAND, HE WANTS SOMEONE OF "STATURE" WHO WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO INFLUENTIAL DEFENSE CIRCLES. ANYONE FAMILAR WITH BONN KNOWS THAT NO ONE UNDER THE RANK OF COUNSELOR OR THE EQUIVALENT IS LIKELY TO HAVE THE ACCESS IMPLIED IN THIS FORMULATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, SECDEF STATES THAT THE OFFICER IN QUESTION SHOULD REPORT NO LOWER IN THE EMBASSY THAN TO THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR. WHAT I AM AFRAID OF IS THAT THIS SUBORDINATION IS MERELY A NOD IN DIRECTION OF EMBASSY ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, AND THAT THE OFFICER SECDEF WANTS TO ASSIGN WOULD IN FACT FEEL THAT HE HAS A VERY OPEN LICENSE WITH HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS. THIS IS NOT SOMETHING THAT I CAN ENDORSE.
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4. THE DEPARTMENT'S RECENT MESSAGES ON MODE CEILINGS (STATE 80366 AND 66110) SEEM PERTINENT TO THE DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE. IN LIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ON PERSONNEL LEVELS ABROAD, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH -- AND THIS IS THE MAIN POINT OF WHAT WE HAVE BEEN SAYING SINCE THE INCEPTION -- HAS NEVER BEEN JUSTIFIED EITHER IN TERMS OF GAPS IN EMBASSY COVERAGE OR OF SPECIFIC REPEAT SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES THAT THE NEW OFFICER WOULD BE INTENDED TO ACHIEVE. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO SAY THAT THE OCCUPANT OF THE NEW SLOT WOULD DEVELOP CONTACTS WITH IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN THE DEFENSE FIELD. WE ALREADY HAVE SUCH CONTACTS, AND THEY ARE GOOD. THE PREPARATION FOR SECRETARY BROWN'S VISIT OFFERS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF CONTACTS THAT THE EMBASSY HAS DEVELOPED AND THAT WE USE FOR OUR REPORTING. IN PREPARATION FOR THAT VISIT, WE MET VARIOUSLY (AND IN SOME CASES FREQUENTLY)

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7417

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 06262

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY READ FROM AMBASSADOR

WITH THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, WITH HIS PERSONAL
ASSISTANT, WITH THE HEAD OF THE WEAPONS PROCUREMENT
OFFICE, WITH THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES,
WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE POLITICAL/MILITARY DIVISION,
AND WITH TWO LEADING PARLIAMENTARIANS.

5. IN SUM, I THINK THAT UNTIL THE QUESTION OF WHAT THE
NEW MAN WOULD BE SUPPOSED TO DO IS ANSWERED TO OUR
SATISFACTION, WE SHOULD NOT ACCEPT A PROPOSAL WHICH
WOULD HAVE THE NET EFFECT OF INCREASING MODE CEILINGS
WITHOUT ANY TANGIBLE BENEFIT. I NOTE IN THIS CONNEC-
TION THAT THE LETTER FROM SECDEF PROVIDES MORE SPECIFI-
CITY ON WHAT THE PROPOSED OFFICER MIGHT DO IN PARIS
THAN IN BONN -- ARMAMENTS, TACTICAL R & D PROGRAMS,
COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, AND THE LIKE. SUCH
MATTERS ARE IN MY JUDGMENT BEING HANDLED EFFECTIVELY
IN BONN BY ODC, DAO, AND THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE R & D
LIAISON OFFICES ATTACHED TO THE EMBASSY. IF HIGHER
RANK WERE CONSIDERED VALUABLE FOR BETTER COORDINATION
OR ENHANCED ACCESS IN THOSE AREAS, I WOULD REITERATE
MY LONG-STANDING RECOMMENDATION TO DOD THAT THE DOWN-
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GRADING OF THE CHIEF MAAG POSITION FROM MAJOR GENERAL

TO COLONEL -- A LOSS WHICH THE GERMANS NEVER FULLY UNDERSTOOD -- BE COMPENSATED FOR BY UPGRADING THE DEFENSE ATTACHE POSITION TO GENERAL OFFICER RANK.

6. ON THE POINT OF THE ASSIGNMENT OF A SECRETARY, I REPEAT THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT AN ADDITIONAL SECRETARY BE PROVIDED IF THERE IS TO BE A NEW OFFICER POSITION. IF DEFENSE CANNOT SUPPLY THE SECRETARY, THEN THE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER THE CREATION OF A NEW SECRETARIAL SLOT. THIS, AGAIN, RAISES MODE CONSIDERATIONS. I CAN ASSURE THE DEPARTMENT, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO CHANCE THAT DSECRETARIAL HELP COULD BE PROVIDED A NEW OFFICER WITHIN THE CURRENT SECRETARIAL LEVELS IN THE POLITICAL SECTION, OR ELSEWHERE ON THE STATE SIDE OF THE MISSION.

7. ON THE BASIS OF THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, I SEE NO USEFUL PURPOSE THAT COULD BE SERVED BY THE ASSIGNMENT HERE OF A SENIOR DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OFFICER. THE FUNCTIONS THAT THIS OFFICER COULD CONCEIVABLY PERFORM ARE ALREADY BEING PERFORMED WITH COMPETENCE BY THE ASSIGNED CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OFFICIALS OF THIS EMBASSY. THEY ARE FUNCTIONING AS AN INTEGRATED UNIT UNDER MY DIRECTION. IT SEEMS POINTLESS TO INTRODUCE ANOTHER PERSON, IN VIOLATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIFIC DIRECTIVE THAT WE CURTAIL NEW POSITIONS.
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